



Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation
Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48
7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1609

MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor's Name and Address: NORTH TEXAS HOSPITAL 3255 W PIONEER PKWY ARLINGTON TX 76013	MFDR Tracking #:	M4-10-3474-01
	DWC Claim #:	
	Injured Employee:	
Respondent Name and Box #: TRINITY UNIVERSAL INSURANCE CO. REP. BOX #: 19	Date of Injury:	
	Employer Name:	
	Insurance Carrier #:	

PART II: REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY AND PRINCIPLE DOCUMENTATION

Requestor's Position Summary as listed on the Table of Disputed Services: "See attached position statement."
Principle Documentation:

1. DWC 60 package
2. Hospital or Medical Bill
3. EOBs
4. Medical Reports
5. Total Amount Sought \$3,049.33

PART III: RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY AND PRINCIPLE DOCUMENTATION

Respondent's Position Summary: "...For DOS 04/23/09 it paid \$1,262.07, then added \$631.02 on appeal for a total payment of \$1,893.09. Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) outlier payments are allowed to ensure equitable payments for hospitals. An outlier payment will be made for outpatient services in which a hospital's charges truly exceed unexpected high costs. To qualify for an outlier, the cost of the service must exceed both the APC outlier cost threshold (1.75 x APC payment) and the fixed-dollar threshold (\$1,250.00 = APC payment). CMS will pay 50% of the amount over the one-and-a-half times threshold. Of course, in order for hospitals to receive accurate payment, they must bill HCPCS codes and appropriate modifiers for all outpatient services documented as provided. If the adjusted costs for the care of that patient is greater than the Requestor's APC outlier threshold amount (the APC payment multiplied by 2.5.), then it is entitled to an outlier payment. The Requestor has failed to document that it merits outlier status and therefore was paid per the Texas Labor Code and DWC Rules..."

Principle Documentation:

1. DWC 60 package

PART IV: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Services in Dispute	Calculation	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
04/23/2009	Hospital Outpatient Services	\$1,027.80(APC) +\$0.00(Outlier Amount) = \$1,027.80 (OPPS) x 200% = \$2,055.60 (MAR) – 1,893.09(Total paid by Respondent) = \$162.51	\$3,049.33	\$162.51
Total Due:				\$162.51

PART V: REVIEW OF SUMMARY, METHODOLOGY AND EXPLANATION

Texas Labor Code Section 413.011(a-d), titled *Reimbursement Policies and Guidelines*, and Division Rule §134.403, titled **Hospital Facility Fee Guideline – Outpatient**, effective for medical services provided in an outpatient acute care hospital on or after March 1, 2008, set out the reimbursement guidelines for Hospital outpatient services.

This dispute was filed in the form and manner as prescribed by 28 TAC §133.307 and is eligible for Medical Dispute Resolution under 28 TAC §133.305 (a)(4).

1. The services listed in Part IV of this decision were denied or reduced by the Respondent with the following reason codes:

Explanation of benefits with the listed date of audit 01/11/2010:

- 595-001 – The reimbursement amount is based on the Medicare Reimbursement plus the percentage increase specified by the state;
- 689 – Reimbursement for this procedure code has been calculated according to the bilateral procedure rule; and
- W1 – Workers Compensation State Fee Schedule Adjustment.

Explanation of benefits with the listed date of audit 03/08/2010:

- 595-001 – The reimbursement amount is based on the Medicare Reimbursement plus the percentage increase specified by the state;
- 689 – Reimbursement for this procedure code has been calculated according to the bilateral procedure rule; and
- W1 – Workers Compensation State Fee Schedule Adjustment.

2. Rule 134.403 (e) states in pertinent part, "Regardless of billed amount, reimbursement shall be:

- (1) the amount for the service that is included in a specific fee schedule set in a contract that complies with the requirements of Labor Code 413.011; or
- (2) if no contracted fee schedule exists that complies with Labor Code 413.011, the maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR) amount under subsection (f), including any applicable outlier payment amounts and reimbursement for implantables;"

3. Pursuant to Rule §134.403(f), "The reimbursement calculation used for establishing the MAR shall be the Medicare facility specific amount, including outlier payment amounts, determined by applying the most recently adopted and effective Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) reimbursement formula and factors as published annually in the *Federal Register*. The following minimal modifications shall be applied.

- (1) The sum of the Medicare facility specific reimbursement amount and any applicable outlier payment amount shall be multiplied by:
 - (A) 200 percent; unless
 - (B) a facility or surgical implant provider requests separate reimbursement in accordance with subsection (g) of this section, in which case the facility specific reimbursement amount and any applicable outlier payment amount shall be multiplied by 130 percent.

4. Under the Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), all services paid under OPPS are classified into groups called Ambulatory Payment Classifications or APCs. Services in each APC are similar clinically and in terms of the resources they require. A payment rate is established for each APC. Depending on the services provided, hospitals may be paid for more than one APC for an encounter. Within each APC, payment for ancillary and supportive items and services is packaged into payment for the primary independent service. Separate payments are not made for a packaged service, which is considered an integral part of another service that is paid under OPPS. An OPPS payment status indicator is assigned to every HCPCS code. Status codes are proposed and finalized by Medicare periodically. The status indicator for each HCPCS codes is shown in OPPS Addendum B which is publicly available through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services. A full list of status indicators and their definitions is published in Addendum D1 of the OPPS proposed and final rules each year which is also publicly available through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services.

5. Upon review of the documentation submitted by the Requestor and Respondent, the Division finds that:

- (1) No contract exists;
- (2) MAR can be established for these services; and
- (3) Separate reimbursement for implantables was *NOT* requested by the requestor.

6. In the corrected request for reconsideration, the requestor states in part, "... Per the new fee schedule this account qualifies for an Outlier payment." According to the Operative Note the procedure rendered to the claimant was Median branch blocks for facet joints L1/2 and L2/3, bilaterally under Fluoroscopic guidance. No documentation was found to support their claim that "this account qualifies for an Outlier payment."

7. Consequently, reimbursement will be calculated in accordance with Rule §134.403 (f)(1)(A) as follows:

APC	Outlier Amount	Separate Reimbursement for implantables WAS NOT requested under Rule §134.403	APC + Outlier Amount X 200%	Fee Schedule (CMS + DWC conversion factor)	Subtract Amount Paid by Respondent	Results in additional Amt Due to Requestor
\$1,027.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,055.60	\$0.00	\$1,893.09	\$162.51

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with Texas Labor Code Sec. 413.031 (c), the Division concludes that the requestor is due additional payment. As a result, the amount ordered is \$162.51.

PART VI: GENERAL PAYMENT POLICIES/REFERENCES

Texas Labor Code Sec. 413.011(a-d), 413.031 and 413.0311
28 TAC Rule §134.403
28 TAC Rule §133.305
28 TAC Rule §133.307

PART VII: DIVISION DECISION

The Division hereby ORDERS the respondent to remit to the requestor the amount of \$162.51 plus accrued interest per Rule §134.130, due within 30 days of receipt of this order.

May 10, 2010

Authorized Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

Date

PART VIII: : YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST AN APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to request an appeal. A request for hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **20** (twenty) days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. **Please include a copy of the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision** together with other required information specified in Division Rule 148.3(c).

Under Texas Labor Code Section 413.0311, your appeal will be handled by a Division hearing under Title 28 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 142 Rules if the total amount sought does not exceed \$2,000. If the total amount sought exceeds \$2,000, a hearing will be conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings under Texas Labor Code Section 413.031.

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.